

C.O.C.A. TIMES

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Convention 2010



by Erick Johnson

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Message from Our President...

It was a long and hot summer for most of us, but fall is here and much cooler weather will soon prevail at the upcoming Chicagoland show. Our 2010 convention in North Carolina was a resounding success and I hope that you enjoy the article and pictures of that event on the cover and inside this issue of COCA Times magazine.

Your COCA board of directors has had a busy year so far, with some noteworthy accomplishments to show for it. We have a new set of corporate by laws (available for review on the web site), a full set of committees working to support our convention planning, web site, and other activities and a current membership of 644 individuals. Our 2011 and 2012 convention locations are set in Houston, Texas and Minneapolis – St. Paul, Minnesota respectively and we are looking forward to visiting those wonderful cities.

On the local side, we had some well attended member gatherings this past spring and early summer. David Cook had about 15 members over for an afternoon of fun at his Phoenix home in May, and about 30 coin op fans were hosted by Dan Davids at his southern California arcade and all around fun room in June. Ron and Sandra Pulver entertained about 20 members with an old fashioned Wisconsin rib barbecue at their Cambria home, also in June.

Please make plans to attend the COCA Fall Chicagoland Show meeting on Friday, November 12th at the Hilton Garden Inn across the street from Pheasant Run. Check in and a cash bar will begin at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the COCA fall meeting at 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15 per person for all you can eat, including coffee and ice tea. Please RSVP before November 7th to Marsha Blau at (414) 350-7623 or at foxsnake@aol.com. We promise plenty of food, fun and friendship for all who attend.

Last but not least, I want to thank the many people whose dedication and hard work make COCA the great club that it is. Our national conventions, local gatherings, Chicagoland show meetings, magazine, web site and corporate functions don't just happen. They are the result of hundreds of hours of volunteer work by some really wonderful people. If you would like to help the club as a volunteer, please let me know.

Happy hunting to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in Chicago in November.

Erick Johnson
COCA President



In this Issue:

- 2010 Convention (cover story)
by Erick Johnson.....4
- Personal Favorites
by Dan Davids.....8
- Wrigley Dice
by Bill Howard12
- Mills Vest Pocket Slot Machine Restoration
by Sal Mazzeo.....14
- O.D. Jennings "Rocket" Scale 1937
by Jim & Meryln Collings....16
- Millard's Vendor
by Roger Smith20
- Busy as a Housefly
by John Peterson24
- The Trinidad Hoard
by Johnny Duckworth.....27
- The Strange Twisted Story of Chester Pollard & Tom McDonald
by Bill Howard30

**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT ISSUE:
JANUARY 9,
2011**

Convention 2010

by Erick Johnson

Beautiful, green North Carolina is the perfect setting for a wonderful coin op experience, as the COCA 2010 Convention proved this past July. COCA 2010 Convention Committee Chairman Bill Petrochuk and his committee worked long and hard to make sure everyone had a good time. Their efforts paid off with what many described as one of the best COCA conventions to date. Despite record setting heat and humidity, the wonderful coin op community in the Raleigh Durham area opened their homes and businesses to over 125 conventioneers for several days of fun and relaxation.

The convention opened Thursday, July 22nd, with Charles and Sylvia Kemp opening their home for tours, stops at the S&T Soda Shop and Patterson's Mill Country Store for some great nostalgia, Scott and Pat Tidball hosting an open house at A1 Gumballs, and registration at the Hilton Garden Inn Southpoint. The COCA Hospitality Room at the hotel opened to serve as "Coin Op Central" and convention check in began in earnest. Keith and Catherine Morris hosted an early bird reception and collection tour at their beautiful lakeside home that evening, providing a perfect finish to a great day.

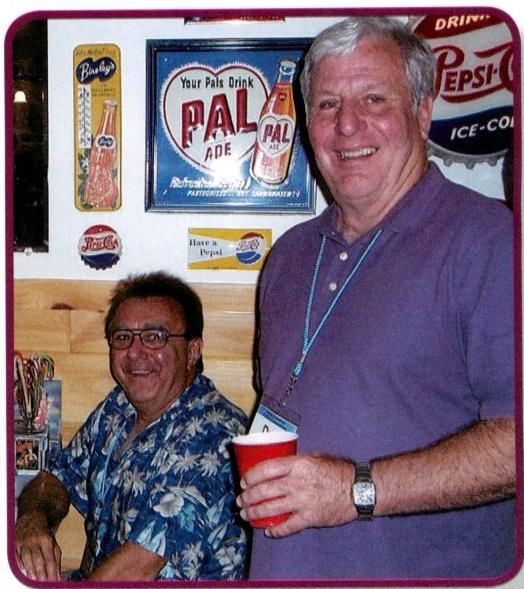
Activities kicked into high gear on Friday morning, starting with a great buffet breakfast provided by the Hilton. The COCA Hospitality Room was busy again registering new arrivals, providing driving directions, shopping information and refreshments. Room to room trading kicked off at 1 p.m. on Friday and there was no shortage of merchandise for the participants. COCA member Dave Small was seen proudly carrying a beautiful original tin lithographed Pulver gum vendor down the hallway and there were several other members who scored great acquisitions. The Chatham Ballroom at the Hilton was the setting for a sumptuous dinner and a huge no fee auction that evening. Approximately 140 items were sold to a very eager crowd, ranging from a collection of old coin machine slugs to a one-of-a-kind Victor cast iron vending machine from the late 1800's.

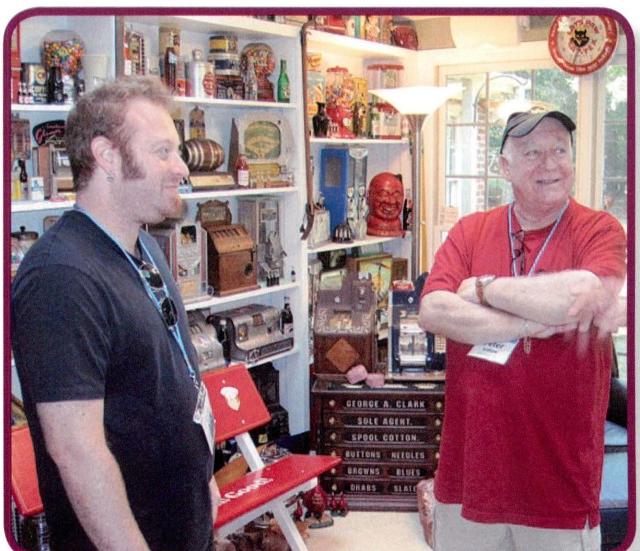
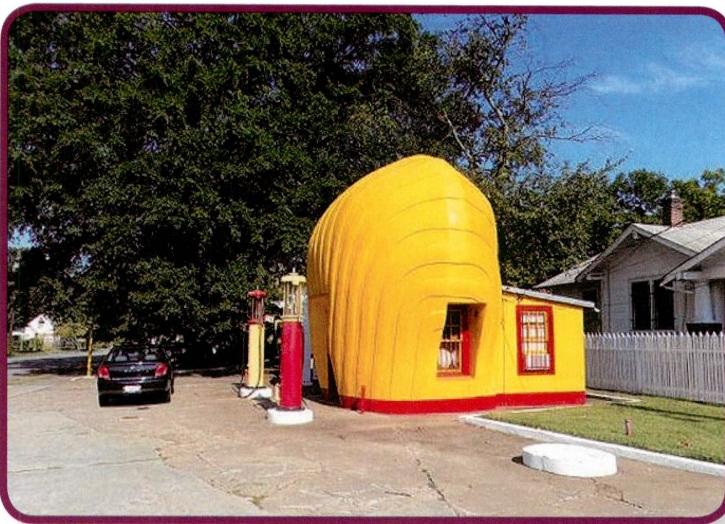
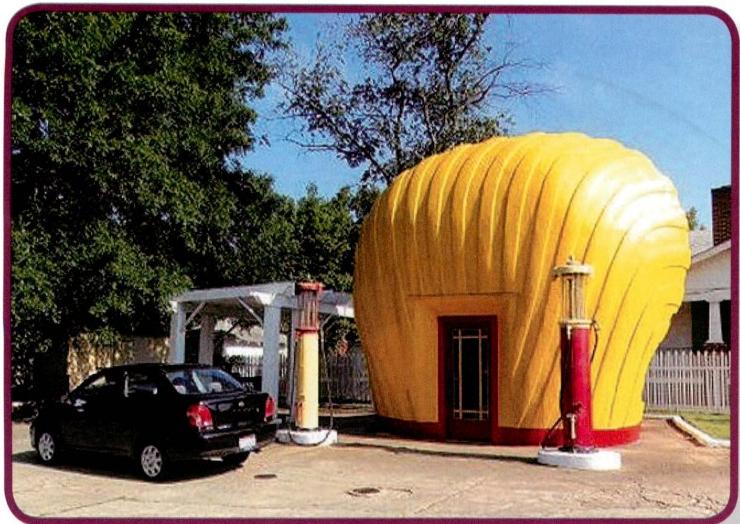
Many thanks to Jeff Scott for volunteering again to serve as auctioneer. His style and speed made for a very lively auction.

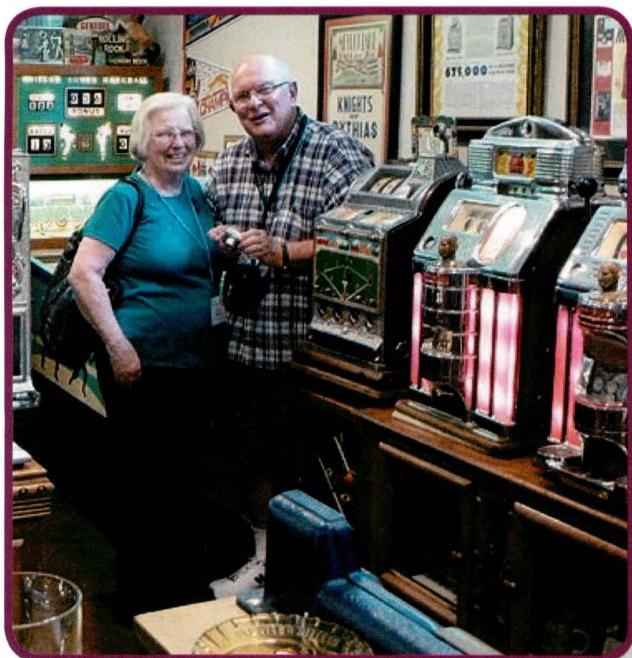
The Hilton breakfast buffet was necessary again Saturday morning, as everyone needed energy for a full day of collection tours. Buses and individual cars departed the hotel that morning for tours at the well appointed homes of Susan Beard, Chuck and Betty Friedman, Keith and Catherine Morris and Vinny and Susan Neumann. All of the hosts served refreshments and for lunch, the conventioneers were fed a lavish "Sit Down Southern Barbeque" at the Friedman home. A little late afternoon free time was wisely built into the schedule to allow digestion of that great lunch. This was necessary because Saturday night's dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy proved to be another incredible meal for everyone. During dinner, everyone was given the news that the 2011 COCA Convention will be held in Houston, Texas and the 2012 Convention is set for Minneapolis – St. Paul, Minnesota.

Following another great Hilton breakfast on Sunday morning, everyone toured the beautiful homes and collections of Mike and Pat Gumula, Charles and Sylvia Kemp and Bill and Lyn Petrochuk. The convention officially ended at 2 p.m. on Sunday and a bunch of tired but happy COCA members and their spouses finally left for home.

The COCA Board of Directors sincerely thanks 2010 Convention Committee Chairman Bill Petrochuk and his wife Lyn, along with committee members Susan Beard, Chuck and Betty Friedman, Mike and Pat Gumula, Charles Kemp, Keith and Catherine Morris and Vinny Neumann for planning, producing and participating in one of the best coin op experiences we have ever had. The North Carolina woods sure are full of wonderful people and great collections. We hope to see everyone again in Houston next year, if not before.







Personal Favorites — Northwestern's, Model...

33 Peanut • 33 Gumball • 33 Junior

by Dan Davids



When I began collecting Gum and Peanut machines in the late 1980's I became enamored with Northwestern machines because of their Porcelain over cast iron finishes and wide range of colors, and soon began to focus my quest to obtain all the colors of these wonderful machines. Along the way the late Bill Enes began calling me "Mr. Northwestern" and the moniker stuck. For a fleeting moment I thought about writing this article in the 3rd person—you know; Mr. Northwestern says this and Mr. Northwestern thinks that, but then thought that Bill might just come back and kick my butt, so I quickly reconsidered!

I can't begin to tell you how many of these machines I've had pass though my hands, but the number is most certainly in the hundreds. And the quest became a passion—looking for Private Labeled chute flaps, colored porcelain pieces in mint condition, and Frosted Globes with perfect original decals—in many cases buying whole machines to get a single part.

So for this article I'm going to focus on the Model 33 Machines—Peanut, Gumball and Junior.

Often I get asked about colors and which is the most scarce (dare I use the word 'rare'), so a while ago I wrote up a little primer listing the machines in their order of scarcity—strictly based on my experiences

over the last 20+ years—and after all, I AM Mr. Northwestern (ha-ha).

Northwestern 33 Peanut Machines (in order of scarcity)

Red	(maybe 50% of the total) different shades, but mostly some version of 'Tomato Soup' in color
Green	(maybe 35%) similar to but slightly different than the 'Columbus' green
Painted	(maybe 10%) Although tough to find with original 2 tone green paint
Black	(less than 200)
White	(less than 150)
Blue	(less than 100)
Yellow	(less than 100)
Orange	(less than 75)
Brown	(less than 25)
Tan	(1 known)

Now regarding these numbers, they're my estimates, but for instance, I couldn't tell you where 200 Black 33 Ps are—so I've added the numbers just put it all into perspective.

All the early machines were painted and all with the frosted (sometimes called stippled) 5# globe.

The castings on these machines are different than the later porcelain machines—the grooves are finer, and there is a triangle design just under the flap. And the lids on the earliest 33 Peanuts were round—no ‘bump out’ in the front as commonly seen on the later Porcelain versions. And although the Model 33 Peanut was released in 1933, my best guess by researching early Northwestern advertisements is that the porcelain 33P machines came out in the late 30’s, as did the smooth 5# globes.

Over all the years the decal remained the same and all factory 33’s were penny machines. I have seen and had Nickel machines but these all appeared to be vendor adaptations as opposed to factory made machines and again NW’s advertisements seem to support this, and I’ve never seen an original 5c Model 33 Peanut decal.

There are also 33 peanuts that sit on top of a “Penny Drop” base. These were later Factory made add-ons to increase the use of the machines essentially making them gambling devices. I have original ads showing these for sale for a whopping \$3.95. Few have survived, but they add \$1500-2000+ to the value of a 33P. Most of these Penny Drop Bases are painted green, but I have seen Red, Yellow and Black versions as well, all are made of Aluminum.

Apparently if you were a large enough NW dealer they would make “private labeled” flaps with your company name on them. There are 10 or so different Private label 33 P flaps. The most commonly seen one is “M.C. Prine” from Baraboo Wisconsin who originally ran painted 33P machines, then switched to all Black and all Orange 33P machines. It appears that he was the only dealer to use the orange machines, and most of these have brown veining in the porcelain, (possibly all from 1 run) mostly noticeable in the decorative grooves on the sides. Other private labeled flaps include “Peanut Sales Co.”, “DEW”, and “R.S. Burch” to name a few. But even the factory Northwestern flap changed over time—the earliest had a square design in it, where later they have a slanted top design—but both say Northwestern Morris Ill. –these were both made in aluminum. Later still, Northwest-

ern went back to the Square design but started chroming the flaps—all versions are correct

All Model 33’s were bulk vendors—But at some point (presumably in the late 1930’s) Northwestern saw the need for a gumball version, and the 33’s sister machine the 33 Ball Gum vendor was launched. I further support the 33G dating to the late 30’s as there are no factory painted versions of this machine; they were all finished in porcelain, and lack the Art Deco design of the original 33 Peanut machines.

Northwestern 33 Gumball Machines (in order of scarcity)

- Red (maybe 98%) Same ‘tomato soup’ red as found on the 33P’s
- Blue (less than 100) Many Blue 33G’s were sold with yellow lids and yellow painted flaps, they’re even shown this way in many of NW’s advertisements. There are also wide variations of the Blue porcelain colors
- Yellow (less than 50)
- White (less than 50—and very hard to find in pristine condition—some with Black lids)
- Tan (maybe 6 known—at one point I owned 4.5)
- Black (1 known) and this seems odd as there are Black lids around

And the question you should be asking yourself right now is “Hey did Mr. Northwestern forget to list Green?” I did not – no 33 gumballs were factory produced in Green Porcelain—it makes no sense to me either! Just about every other Northwestern model of this era came in a Green Porcelain finish—why not the 33G??

Honestly it also makes no sense to me that Northwestern made a completely different machine to be the 33 Gumball. Logic would tell us that they could have just as easily adapted the mechanism of their wildly successful 33 Peanut machine to vend gumballs as they did on later model 39’s and 40’s—maybe they came to their senses.

continued on next page

The 33G uses either the 5# smooth globe (shared with the 33P) or the smaller 3.5# globe commonly referred to as the “33 Gum globe” by collectors. But NW didn’t use the 5# Frosted globe on the 33G (although it would fit).

Decal wise the 33 Gs used the Northwestern “Ball Gum” decals, and I have seen a “Bubble Gum” version, but that decal is fairly scarce.

And then the flaps for the 33G—I’ve never seen a private labeled 33 gumball chute flap, maybe because it’s smaller? Although I have seen a ‘blank’ version of the 33G flap

The Northwestern model 33 Junior

First and foremost, when we talk about the NW 33 Junior machine in relation to the 33 Peanut and 33 Gumball, they’re scarce—period. I would guess that for every Junior made, Northwestern made 500 or 1000 model 33 peanut machines, maybe more. The early machines were painted in a 2 tone green, same as the 33 Peanuts machines. And like their 33 P brother the castings on the 33 Junior’s were different than the later porcelain version, and finding a 33 junior with original 2 tone paint is very difficult. Green porcelain 33 Junior’s made up 99% of the production. But they also came in other colors. I’m listing them below and the (#) after each color relates to the # thought to exist today.

Northwestern 33 Junior (in order of scarcity)

Green	(100-125)
Painted	(50) but few with original 2 tone paint
White	(20-25)
Blue	(10-15)
Brown	(5.5) one Brown 33 Junior has a painted lid)
Red	(1)
Tan	(1)

teen decal on the taller 2# globe. These machines were all painted in a dark red enamel with gold drizzle. Model 33 Junior machines came in the vendor’s choice of the short 1.5# or taller 2# octagonal globe. Early painted Juniors didn’t use a hold down ring, they had a second rod that attached to a clip at the top and screwed to the top plate of the mechanism, that held the globe in place.

And speaking of the mech, the bottom plate and mech wheel are shared with the 33 Peanut—but the octagonal top plate is unique to the 33 Junior. Some other things of note on the NW 33 Junior: all were bulk vendors, No porcelain Juniors had top marquees, All of the Canteen marquees said ‘Always Fresh’, some Juniors had metal ‘coin trays’ inside the base, the only factory correct decal on a 33 Junior is the same decal used on the 33 Peanut.

In summary:

A lot of what is known about these machines (and for that matter all Vending machines) is supported by the years of advertising the Company ran and their offerings to vendors via their catalogs. But remember too, a lot of what we know, or think we know is anecdotal or based on supposition, but in many cases this information is just as valuable. And I think it’s safe to say that if a Vendor was a large enough Northwestern customer, willing to purchase a large quantity, he could have special ordered almost anything he wanted.

In closing, I still very much enjoy this hobby we share. For me, it’s not just the deal, or the find, or the machines themselves, it’s the people that I’ve met and get to associate with. Thank goodness some of you are crazier than me! You can always reach me by email at DJDavids@earthlink.net or at 310/349-2082



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And Northwestern made a private labeled 33 Junior for the Canteen Corporation. These machines had a different chute flap, and added top marquee and 1c placard near the coin entry, and a large custom Can-

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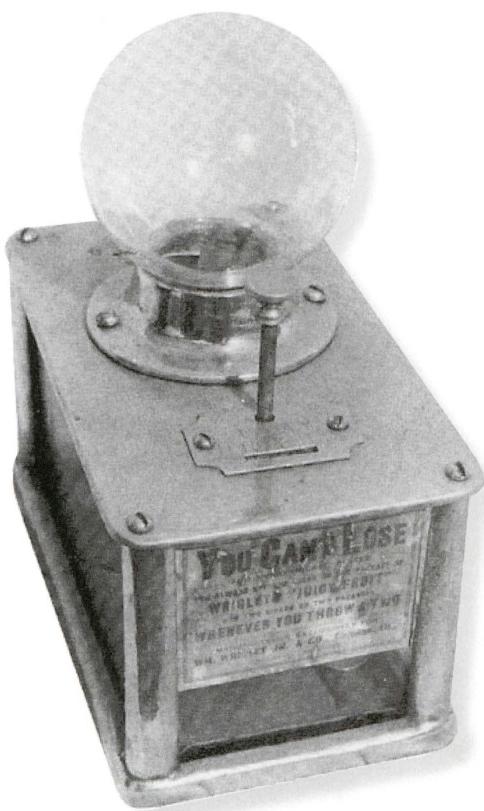
Wrigley Dice Machine

by Bill Howard

The Wrigley Brothers used many types of coin operated machines over the years to promote or vend their gum. Most notable of this group is the Wrigley Dice Machine pictured below that was manufactured by the Dunn Brothers in Anderson, Indiana, in 1905. See this machine featured on page 121 of Every Picture Tells a Story. Another period Dunn/Wrigley trade stimulator similar in size but featuring a roulette wheel under a glass dome encouraged the player to bet on the amount of gum or other trade credit he would receive for his coin. Both machines are almost companion pieces and look wonderful together.



I was able to purchase the dicer years ago from friend and dealer Mike Gorski of Westlake, Ohio. The mechanism is extremely well built and includes a thick glass globe over a large dice, five sides of which contain the number "1" and the sixth the number "2", all in gold yellow. Thus the player had a one in six chance of getting two Wrigley gums instead of one. The base of the machine is surrounded by glass, so that the player can view his dice as it flips when the plunger at the base is depressed. All examples I have seen operate with a nickel, not a penny.



This is a scarce machine and almost impossible to find in original condition. The metal base is hardly ever found with original finish, and the glass sides and globe top are usually broken, notwithstanding the thickness of the glass. And because of the glass construction, the original paper and glass are almost always missing when an example is found. The correct paper should read, in capital letters, "YOU CAN'T LOSE" and advertise Juicy Fruit Gum. Finally, the door and lock are almost always missing as well. The existence of the glass sides must have served to deter the use of a slug, which would immediately appear on top of the coins inside, in front of God and everyone.

This example is in almost all original condition, as I happened to be at Mike's at the right time, the day after he got it for resale.

What is so interesting about the Wrigley Dicer is that it combines so many features of coin operated machines into one; advertising, a gambling feature, a trade stimulator, and a sense of amusement.

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Advance Lg or Sm Football	\$40	Double Nugget	\$45 or 2/\$85	NW 33 Junior (Lexan)	\$50
Bluebird Large	\$50	Grandbois Cylinder	\$35	Regal Cylinder or Pear	\$40
Climax 10	\$65	Hamilton	\$45	Silver King	\$40
Columbus #8 with Star	\$35	Lucky Boy/Bloyd	\$40	Victor Square Cylinder-Fat Cylinder	\$40
Columbus #8 No Star	\$50	NW 31 Merch	\$45		

Mills Vest Pocket Slot Machine Restoration

by Sal Mazzeo

"How in the world does this thing work? It doesn't look like any of my other slots". Those were the first words that came out of my mouth when I started my Mills Vest Pocket (VP) slot machine restoration. Let me tell you of my journey down this particular restoration road.

First, here's a little history on the Mills VP slot machine. Manufactured by Mills, it was first made in 1938, and continued production up through the 1960's by SEGA of Japan.

I had picked up my Mills VP at a local auction about 20 years ago. See (*photo #1*) for reference. It had sold cheap, because it had a broken payout slide, part of which was actually missing from the machine. I was able to buy a replacement slide a couple of years after I acquired the VP. In retrospect, that was apparently lucky, since there aren't a lot of replacement slides available. Tip to slot machine parts sellers – there's a niche market for you. In any event, I procrastinated restoring the slot, since I wasn't familiar with its workings. But eventually, I got around to it. Here's some background on the VP, and what I did to bring it back to life.

I already had The Coin Slot Guide #13, Guide to the Mills Vest Pocket, published by Dick Bueschel in 1980. This is the only reference material available of any substance for the VP, and showed how the machine worked. Essentially, you put a coin into the acceptance slide at the front of the machine. By pushing in the slide, it activates the machine, and if you get a winning combination on the 3 spinning reels, you get an automatic payout. The amount of the payout is determined by how far into the reel bundle the reel plunger (Mills Designation Number #93) entered, and the coins were delivered by a payout slide that moved up and down on a shaft. In the Mills VP manual, in addition to the lengthy part number (such as MMB-159-CSP for part #93), Designation Numbers, or DNs, were used – I'll follow that practice in my story for simplicity. The brass payout slide, which is officially called DN #24, 'elevator and roller assembly', determines

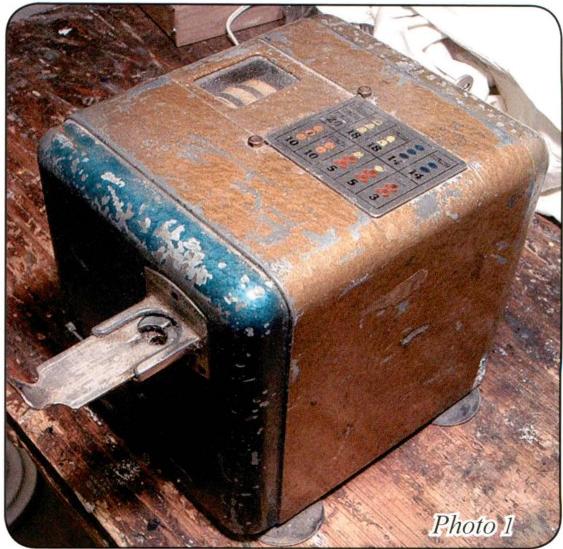


Photo 1

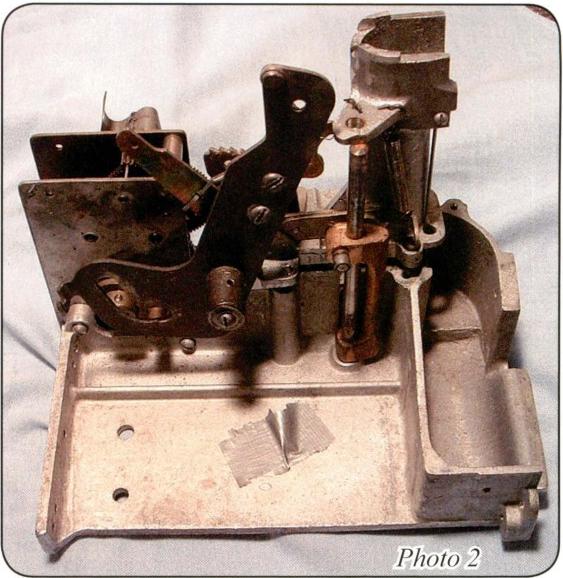


Photo 2

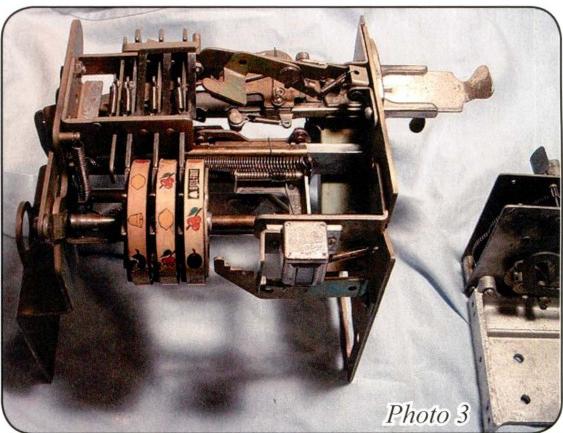


Photo 3



Photo 4

the payout by moving vertically on its shaft, in conjunction with other operating parts. The coins fall onto the flat tilted brass 'ledge' part of this slide and fall into the payout cup, when it moves down.

I tried to cycle the machine, but it was jammed. After looking through the mechanics, I determined the problem was small and simple (always a good way to start). It was simply that the clock fan was bent and couldn't move, keeping the machine from finishing its cycle. This problem was something I'd seen before on full size mechanical slots. OK, that was an easy first fix. But now it was going to get more difficult.

I next had to replace the broken payout slide. But to do that, I would need to get to it, as it was buried inside the mechanism. In my mind, I saw the machine as organized into two modules: the upper and lower housings. See (*photos 2 & 3*) for the two housings. The lower housing could also be further disassembled into its component parts. The upper housing contains the coin acceptance slide, reels, and most of the operating mechanism. The lower housing has the lower section of the frame, and contains the main operating lever, payout tube/slide and clock.

To begin the disassembly, I needed to separate the lower housing from the VP to get to the broken DN #24 payout slide. This first entailed removing the DN #77 payout cover, as it was connected to DN #25, the main operating lever assembly. DN #25, in the lower housing, is a key component for cycling the machine; you can tell that because as it moves back and forth, the clock runs and the machine cycles. Then I was able to remove the DN #40 upper mechanism frame assembly from the lower housing to access my broken slide. You can actually slide off the upper housing assembly without removing the main operating lever, payout tube, etc. once you disconnect the lever connected to DN #25. Next, I took out the screws holding the payout tube and DN #25 to the lower housing, which allowed me to remove the broken payout slide #24 by sliding it off its shaft.

I was then able to replace the slide #24 (*photo #4*) and start the reassembly. To complete that process, I first put back together the parts of the lower housing, and carefully slid the upper assembly back into place, including reconnecting the lever on DN #25. You should ensure that the lever that slides onto the payout tube fits correctly into its 'notch' (DN #17, payout lever pawl bracket), or the upper assembly won't descend correctly. Also make sure that payout slide DN #24 is in its 'upper position' of its cycle. Finally, the lower frame must also be aligned with the upper housing, or the two housings won't slide together – especially at the front 'lip' that juts out, where the coins come out. When you are reassembling the machine, the above hints will make more sense and fall into place. If they don't, then

you'll just have a few trials and errors to complete the reassembly – as I did!

After the assembly was completed, I manually cycled the machine, and it worked, paying out coins when the cherry symbols came up. I thought I was all done, but when I manually set up an orange payout, I only got 4 coins, instead of the correct 10. It appeared that DN #93 (reel plunger assembly) wasn't going far enough along the notches of DN #80 (reel plunger stop bracket). DN #80 determines how far DN #93 goes into the reel bundle for payouts. The Mills troubleshooting section addressed a situation like this, entitled 'When mechanism fails to payout correct number of coins'. It suggested you use gauge #28 (which I didn't have) to adjust the elevator cam #38. I played around, adjusting the 2 screws on DN #38. However, all of these attempted fixes did not solve the problem. The problem appeared to be insufficient movement of payout slide DN #24. After looking at it closely, I determined that 1 brass end of DN #24, close to the clock side of the machine, was too tight in the lower housing, stopping its movement. That tightness is probably what broke the original DN #24. So I ground down the tight end of DN #24, and that fixed the problem. After a few adjustments on DN #38, the machine worked better, although some payouts were off by 1 coin. I tried a number of times to adjust # 38 and reel plunger stop DN #39, but still got some payouts that were off by one coin. Since I didn't have Mills gauge #28, I didn't let it bother me, and called it a day.

I then repainted the machine, and thought it came out pretty well – take a look at (*photo #5*.) After all was said and done, I'd say the VP is a fun little machine to see and to play – try one out on your gameroom's bar-top, as I have done!



O.D. Jennings “Rocket” Scale 1937

By Jim & Merlyn Collings



Photo 1

This unique electric Novelty & Advertising Scale is rare and scarce. Only a few of these dual-purpose scales have surfaced since 1937. The vendor or store owner not only gets the pennies, but also has revenue from the owners of the “ads” placed on the cylinder. The “rocket” scale was very profitable having the features of light and movement. Lawrence Blazey from Cleveland, Ohio designed the “rocket” scale for O.D. Jennings & Company, located in Chicago, IL. This unusual 51-inch cast iron penny scale was done in two-tone green enamel with a chromium finish (*Photo 1*). *Photo 2* shows a side view of the “rocket” scale, which housed the glass cylindrical column with the four advertisements. They are lit up with seven 7-watt bulbs. The rotating drum inside the scale head moves the advertisements around, stopping periodically so the patron has time to read the “ads” (*Photo 3*). In a way this is similar to the revolving showcases found in many stores today. *Photo 4* shows the men and women’s Height and Weight chart plus another business ad. The red cap lights up with “WEIGH TODAY” 1 cent. The rotating mechanism, motor and weight dial are shown in *Photo 5*.

We’ve included an ad from the “National Coin Machine Exchange” magazine from June 1937 showing the “New” Jennings Advertising Scale (*Photo 6*). Be on the lookout for this “torpedo-style” or “rocket-ship” scale.

It's a real treasure!

We would like to thank Jeff Storck for his help and expertise.

HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING!



Photo 2

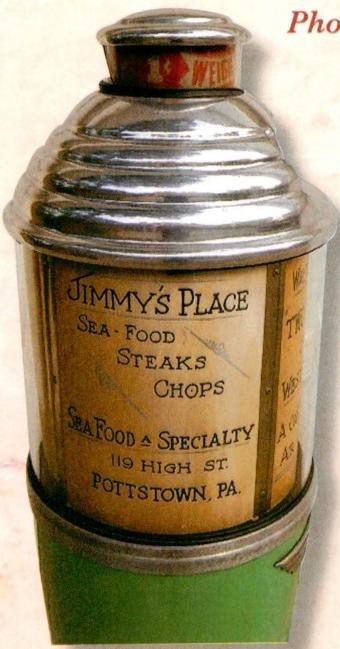


Photo 3



Photo 4

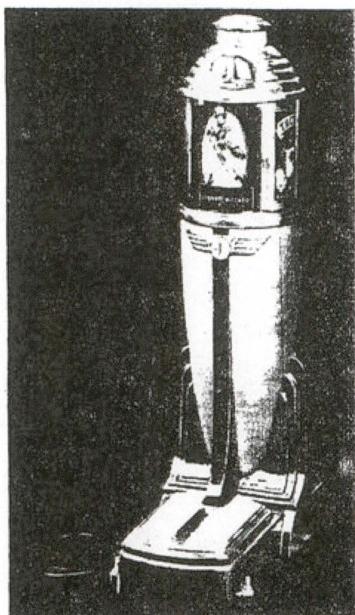


Photo 5



Photo 6

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New Jennings Advertising Scale recently introduced to trade, designed by Lawrence Blazey of Designers for Industry.

June, 1937

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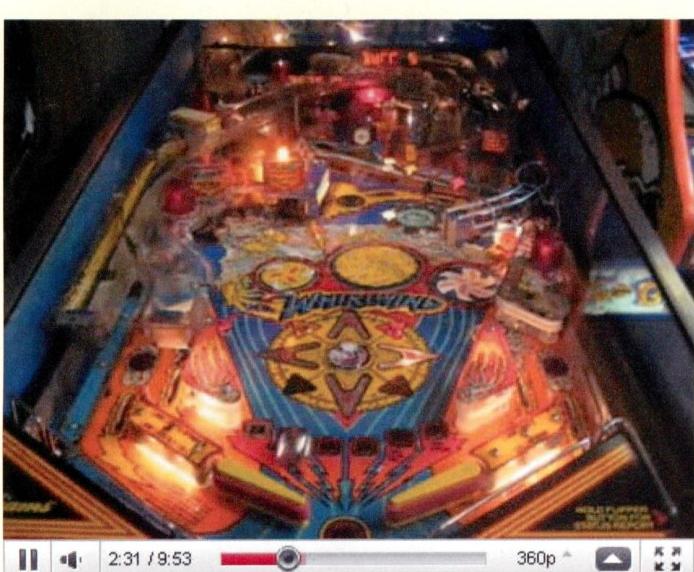
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Caille Roulette (1904)



Shoot the Bear (1949)



Whirlwind Pinball (1990)

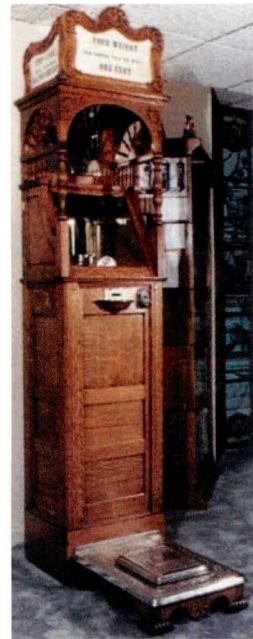
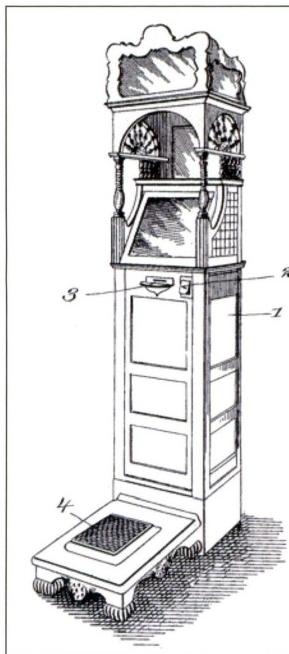


Stargate Videogame (1981)

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Nicolay Nelson of the Waukegan, Illinois based Chicago Recording Scale Company invented this Automatic Recording Scale in 1899. On June 8, 1899, a patent application was filed. By the time U.S. Patent #675,607 was granted on June 4, 1901, the invention has already been assigned to Le Roy W. Baldwin of New York City.

The scale's operation was fairly straightforward, yet advanced for its time. A patron would stand on the platform and drop in a nickel, and then would get a printed ticket while music played. It all happened under glass while the customer watched.

About thirty years ago one was found in a New York City railroad station when it was razed. It was then sold at auction for \$16,050. Where did it go? If you own one and don't want to sell it, touch base anyway. I'd love to learn more about it and am also willing to share my files on it.

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A “Top-Notch” Vendor



Roger Smith

The Story of the Millard's Vendor

Many collectors have never had the pleasure of encountering the quirky little countertop vendors with their coin entry located on the top and simple mechanism located on the bottom. Even fewer know that they were patented by a British National living in New York, during the first part of the last century. The story of the Millard's Vendor is one of simple innovation, true inventiveness and, unfortunately, commercial failure.

Opportunities for Invention

The patents of William Millard span the period of 1907 to 1920 and mark an era of general inventiveness that drove the country. The economy was good, industry was booming and European imperialism had yet to exert the full influence that would lead to World War I. People had disposable income that could be harvested by the growing vending trade. Iconic vendors, such as the Buffalo, were being patented, RD Simpson (the inventor of the Columbus line of vendors) was just starting business and vendors like the Mansfield's Choice were starting to appear in prime locations.

The Beginnings

Our story begins with the birth of William Millard in England about 1870. He immigrated to this country in 1894 and met his New York-born wife, Ella L., sometime during the years leading up to his first efforts at patenting vending devices.

While he claimed to have an interest before the turn of the twentieth century, we do not know exactly when William first became involved with vending machines. By the spring of 1907, he filed his first patents which were for a series of designs for liquid vending machines, win-

William Millard

ning his first four patents in July of that year. These designs were for floor-model machines that were large, hulking and somewhat inelegant. Despite this, these patents were assigned to the Automatic Drink Machine Company of Maine. Little is known about this company, but it did give William a start in the vending field.

Alball Manufacturing

Millard's first gum vending patents (2) were issued *fig. 1* in 1912 and were assigned to the Alball Manufacturing Company. Millard was issued two more patents (in 1914) that were also assigned to the Alball company. Though Millard lived consistently in uptown Manhattan, at 223 W. 129th, and 122 W. 130th Streets,

the Alball Company was located several miles away in Brooklyn, New York. It is not known how Millard became involved with the Alball company, but it appears that the connection was limited to these four patents.

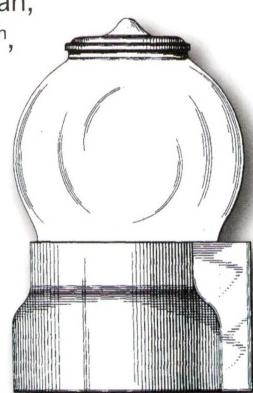
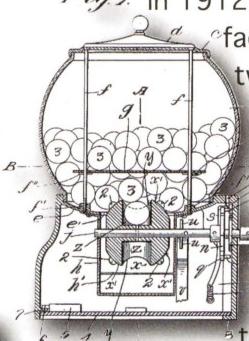
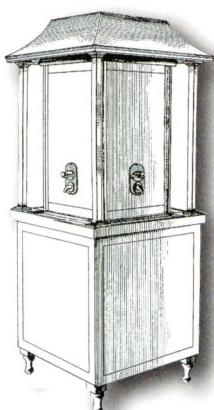


fig. 1
Alball design patent, 1912



Self-employed

In 1909, William Millard submitted a patent for a five column cup dispenser, which was subsequently

granted in 1915. In this patent, he retained the patent rights for himself rather than assigning them to another company or individual. This could have been because this was a freelance invention or it may have foreshadowed his intention to set off on his

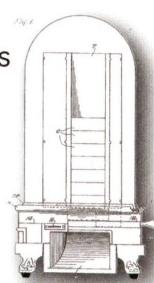
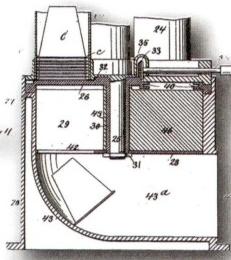
own someday. This patent has many similarities to the Advance Machine Company's match box vendor patented in 1916, though there does not appear to have been any interaction between BM Davis (the Advance vendor's inventor) and Millard.

In 1914, William Millard paid a \$5.00

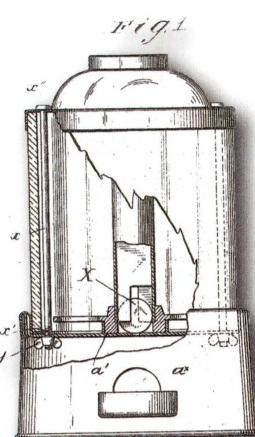
fee to organize a new company in New York State. The company was called the Automat Penny Sales Co., Inc. The first listing of the company in New York City directories was in 1915, with William Millard as president and Arthur W. Rinke as secretary. (Rinke was a lawyer involved in corporations, so he may have just helped in the organization and supplied a required name.)

Patents on the classic Millard vendor, as we know it today, were submitted in 1914 and granted August 29, 1916. An early example of the Millard vendor (indeed the one shown in Bill Enes' book) carries a decal that states: "Millard's Pep-mint gum, 2 for 1¢, Deposit penny on top, turn knob to right, Automat

Penny Sales Co, 120 West 32nd St. N.Y. City, Patent Pending." It would have been logical that the first patent for this new machine would either be assigned to the new company or retained by Millard himself, but that was not the case; the patent was assigned to the Millard Gum Vending Corporation of Eddyville, New York.



Advance Match Vendor



Millard Vending Gets its Start

Approximately 90 miles north of New York City, is the town of Eddyville, New York. The area around Eddyville was known for transportation (an important freight hub for the transportation of coal from Pennsylvania to New York City through the D & H canal) and the mining of bluestone and cement for New York City. It is NOT known as a hub of commerce or the vending industry. Why Eddyville was the location of this corporation is not clear. We do know that by the time the second patent on the classic Millard's vendor was issued (November 11, 1919), William assigned the patent rights to the Millard's Gum Vending Corporation of New York, but without an indication of the location of the company, though other information places it in New York City by this time.

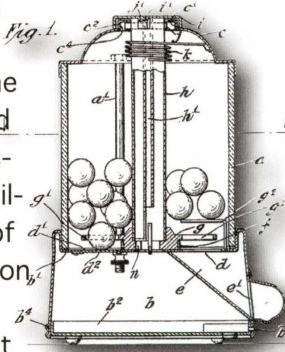
While the New York City directory for 1917 lists the Millard's Gum Vending Corporation, it wasn't until 1918, that the Corporation was formally incorporated with William Millard as President, Ella L. Millard (his wife) as Vice President, and Jerome H. Schloss Secretary.

(Schloss would live to be 103 years old, dying in 1987.) The capital assets of the company were listed as \$20,000, the modern equivalent of over \$280,000. The directors of the company were William &

Ella L. Millard, Irving S. Ottenberg, and Henry Ruening. The corporate offices were located at 338 Broadway, until the relocated to 486 Broadway, in 1920.

The Millard Vendor

Several variations of the Millard vendor are known, but they all share a number of characteristics that likely limited their popularity: The machines are all constructed of lightweight metal, have inexpensive (sometimes finicky) locks, and were designed with a difficult filling procedure. The metal cho-



Jerome H. Schloss
Philanthropic Worker, 103

Jerome H. Schloss, former secretary of the New York Foundation, a philanthropic organization that provides funds for worthy organizations, died Saturday at his home in Manhattan. He was 103 years old.

Mr. Schloss, a native of Manhattan, was associated with the foundation from 1937 to 1955, when he retired. He continued to work for the organization as a volunteer until 1970. He was the author of a privately printed book tracing the decline of currencies throughout history, beginning in the 18th-century B.C., with the time of King Hammurabi of Babylon.

His is survived by his wife, the former Evelyn Gomprecht; a daughter, Marjorie Isaac of Bronxville, N.Y.; a son, Walter, of Manhattan; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

sen for the construction resulted in a machine that tipped over readily and damaged easily. The cam locks located on the base plate were frustratingly prone to sticking, misalignment, damage and tampering. If these attributes were not enough to make a jobber's life miserable, the machines had to be filled through a small hole in the base while holding the machine in an inverted position. (Only the bulbous Faust-Maier vendor, made by Mills Novelty Co. has a worse design for filling.) As simple and fool-proof as the mechanism might have been, these attributes likely made these vendors unpopular.

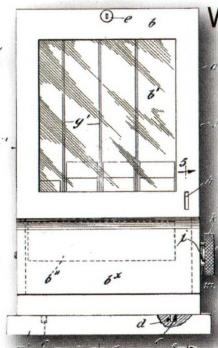
There is some suggestion that these deficiencies

were noted early on because an example of the Millard vendor, the so-called Renn vendor, shows evidence of design changes. This was a private label machine made for the Newark Gum Company sometime between 1914 and 1916. This machine differs from the other Millard-labeled machines in that it has a hole in the top for filling (filled by a cork, in the existing example) and an easier to turn vending knob. The mechanism also has a raised ring just below the knob to restrict the rotation of the shaft to 90°. These changes relieve

the need for a return spring and protect the mechanism. A very similar looking machine appears in an undated flier for the Bradford Gum Company of 328 Cranston Street, Providence, Rhode Island. The machine in the flier is labeled as "The Little Gem" and no maker is indicated, but the similarities to the Millard vendors is unmistakable.

The next U.S. patent issued to

William Millard also suggests acknowledgement of the limitations of the original vendor. This 1920, patent was for a four-column vendor that resembles many of the matchbox vendors of the time. Millard did get a British patent on the original de-



sign in 1920, but this was a verbatim copy of the 1919 United States patent - 1,321,385 - though there is no indication that the machine was ever manufactured in Great Britain. His decision to get this patent, most likely represents a nod to his continuing status as a British subject, not a plan for globalization.

Changing Directions

The fate of the Millard's Gum Vending Corporation was both predictable and enigmatic. The corporation disappeared from New York City directories by 1922 and little is known about the activities of William in the time immediately after the closure of the company. Millard did receive two patents for apparatuses for moistening carburetor gases assigned to the Carbon Destroyer Corporation of New York, but it does not appear this was any more than a sideline. Little is known about the Carbon Destroyer Corporation and no other patents, by other inventors, were assigned to them around this time.

William appears to have remained active in the vending business at some level because a 1943 Billboard article indicated that he was starting a new company to make amusement devices. While nothing further seems to have survived to tell us more, we can only hope that they, too, were "top-notch."

May 22, 1943

EASTERN FLASHES!

By BEN SMITH

Still Active

William Millard, who first became interested in coin-controlled equipment back before the turn of the century, is still up and around and active in this field. He has just organized a new firm, the Jitter Cube Company, to manufacture games out of non-priority materials. Headquarters will probably be located in Nassau County, and an announcement on the first game, Jitter Cubes, is expected shortly. Millard at one time was known as the "breath pellet king" as a result of his extensive operations with this product.



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Busy As A...Housefly?

by John Peterson

I am occasionally asked, (other than Dearly Beloved who seems unable to grasp the concept and therefore asks quite frequently,) “Why do you collect?” And more specifically, “Why British coin-operated machines as opposed to American?”

I have several stock answers that I trot out depending upon my mood and the gullibility of the questioner. To be truthful, the real answer has changed somewhat over time as my knowledge has expanded, to say nothing about the size of my collection. The first question is easily answered: “Because it pleases me.” The second question requires a bit more thought.

I live in the United States, home of the largest repository of slot machines, vendors, and just about any other type of coin-activated machine you care to mention. You name the game and if we didn’t invent it, we perfected production and distribution of it after we copied the original. I have often thought that if truth in advertising applied to country identification, we would have to change our name to “The United States of Mass Production.” We’ve now lost that title to China but from the turn of the 20th Century forward to mid-century, we were the Kings of Coin-op. Our slot machine industry alone cranked out tens of thousands of machines. Many, maybe a majority, were destroyed through anti-gambling zealotry and obsolescence but thousands have survived. If your interest is slot machines, you need to be playing in the American market



Photo A

if you wish to amass a top-notch collection. So, what’s wrong with me? Why have I turned my back on the home team in favor of the visitors? In a word: whimsy!

Mass production, by definition, means the production of the same item in the same fashion to the same identical standard. Mass production leads to efficiency with the ultimate goal being lower cost. And as we all know, lower cost means the ability to sell at a lower price, which means Walmart! Mass production also means uniformity, or in my mind, sameness.

Which bring me to whimsy. I know the bible holds the high ground when defining sin but I have to tell you, it missed one of the biggies: being boring. In our family, we give you a lot of latitude in the behavior department but there is one behavior we will not tolerate: being boring. I can excuse a lot if I find your antics amusing. On the other hand, if you show no sense of humor or have an overwhelming preoccupation with your own “specialness,” you

risk my wrath. Life is too short to hang around with people who are bores.

All of which brings me to British coin-op. English games, whether skill or amusement, run strongly toward whimsy. “Whimsy” is defined as “a fanciful or fantastic device, object or creation, especially in writing or art.” Today’s machine, “The Busy Bee” (Photo A) clearly illustrates my point.

The Bee is a game of amusement only. To verify,

one need look no further than either the top or the bottom of the playfield where “For Amusement Only” is clearly proclaimed, twice! Shame on those of you who would use this simple game for gambling! And simple it is. Depositing a large British penny into the coin slot automatically releases the ten steel bearings onto the bottom row as seen in *Photo A*. Turning the knob on the front of the game operates the upside-down “U” shaped finger that feeds the balls, one at a time, into the launch position. The vertical lever on the front of the game is the spring-loaded launcher. The balls will either catch in the pin columns on the top of the playfield or drop down into the horizontal slots at the mid-field. Once all ten balls have been played, the score can be tallied and compared to the other gamblers...oops, I mean “players.” Depressing the chrome lever on the right side of the cabinet releases the balls from their scoring positions and returns them to the bottom row, ready for another round.



Photo B

The bee on the playfield is hand-drawn and colored. Take a closer look, *Photo B*. I am no apidologist but that insect looks more like a common housefly to me than any bee I ever saw. Before all you entomologists get out your text books and throw them at me, answer me this: If this does not look quite like a housefly, does it really look like a bee? I certainly think not! All of which brings me to what I find so engaging about British coin-op: the whimsical and sometimes absurd nature and quality of so many of their games. Many were literally hand made, one at a time. Besides the uniqueness this type of production lends to each piece, the reality that production runs will be small leads to more freedom for quirky concepts to squeak through. The question is less “what appeals to the masses?” and more “what pops my cork as the designer?” This difference in approach

is subtle but important. Do you think Mills or Jennings would ever have seriously considered a slot machine designed to look like a fly?



Photo C

I have no idea who manufactured “The Busy Bee” or when she started buzzing. I have seen several others offered for sale in Great Britain over the years. All were identical to mine although all were missing the topflash. My topflash, *Photo C* is original to the machine even though, proportionally, I think it looks a bit too large. The sign inside the topflash is not original but is a design created by my son, Prince Sleeps-a-lot.

Although I may never know the manufacturing genesis of the Bee, that does not mean I am completely without anecdotal reference. Scratched quite legibly into the wood on the side of the game, next to the coin slot is: “Eileen was here.” Not to be outdone, “Brandy” and “Jim” carved in, together with others whose penmanship deteriorated to the point that someone felt compelled to inscribe “Write please” on the bottom of the wood sideboard with a quality knife. These graffiti signatures and suggestions only add to the charm of this most charming of games.

Whimsy? Thy name is mine. I will take a game that speaks to the frailties and foibles of Man over manufacturing prowess any day. Retired now from the Captain’s seat, I am a fly-boy no longer. Nonetheless, I’m still busy as a bee, looking for that next honey of a game. I hope you are too. Good hunting!

The End

Post Script: When not driving Dearly Beloved crazy, John writes mystery/thriller novels. And chases British flights of fancy. If you wish, you may give him a buzz at: jp4@charter.net.

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The Trinidad Hoard

By: Johnny Duckworth

I have always wondered when the old floor machines were taken out of service just where they went. As we all know so well many of them found their fate at the local dump while others were gutted out and transformed into strange looking liquor cabinets. You can imagine my excitement when I was able to track down the story of an actual hoard that surfaced in Trinidad, Colorado.

I have made three separate deals on upright floor machines that originally came from that hoard in Colorado and this set me on the trail to learn more. Here I will share what I know and if any readers have additional details, send them along.

The prices make nostalgic reading, too!

The story starts out in Trinidad, Colorado where long time operator Johnny Pricco had ran gambling machines in the area all his life. In Trinidad he set up machines in the Grand Hotel and the Century Brewing building, among other places. In the early 1960's he was getting into his late eighties and he had at least 20 complete upright floor machines and almost as many "parts machines." They had all been stored away on the 3rd floor of the old ice house building in Trinidad.

Cleo Finklin of Raton, New Mexico, who had worked as a mechanic for Johnny years earlier had seen them covered with a thick layer of dust and grime. They hadn't seen the light of day for decades! Cleo pried the entire load out of Johnny for \$300, and with his friend Joel Sanderson, they hauled them all back to Raton. Joel's "payment" for his help was one of the machines which turned out to be a Caille Bullfrog! You

probably know that tradition has it the Caille Brothers learned of the Mills Cricket, so they came out with the Bullfrog as a competitor. In real life, bullfrogs eat crickets, you know! In any event, as the hobby grew and more information was learned, it developed that Mills Crickets, while scarce and desirable, were available with some regularity, but a Caille Bullfrog was the rarest of the rare.

A large truck with an open bed and high sides was borrowed, and the several dozen machines packed in. After sorting them out, Cleo sold most of the intact machines for a few hundred dollars each. Some of the machines that had music sold for even more. As to the parts machines from the Trinidad hoard, they were unceremoniously hauled off to the local dump. Read this and weep, for today they would form the basis of reconstructing many fine machines.

There was little information available on the rarity or value of such machines. For example a Musical Dewey, desirable then and now, could be priced higher in comparison to a non-musical Caille Venus. Their legality was uncertain in some areas, and in any event there was no community of collectors. Those interested in old slots enjoyed them in private.

My first buy from the Trinidad group was a Mills Musical Judge, which I picked up from Gary Sturridge, of Tonganoxie, Kansas, over 10 years ago. This had been sold by Cleo out of the hoard to the owner of the De Anza motel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He had also bought a Mills Cricket from the hoard as well. Roger "Waldo" Kislingbury of Pasadena, California, who is also part blood hound, tracked down these two machines

Happy Hunting!

in 1968. Waldo was able to buy both machines for \$500. He kept the Cricket and then sold the Musical Judge the next day to Dave Bowers. Gary would acquire the machine from the Bowers collection in the early 1980s. I won't mention Dave selling a Caille Triple, Mills Cricket, and another machine as a package deal to Walt Bellm for \$7,500 in the 1970s! This was still in the early years of collector interest.

The second Trinidad machine I found was the Caille Bullfrog which was still owned by Joel Sanderson. Joel was instrumental in passing the bill to legalize slot machines in New Mexico. His wife was also a long time judge in Raton and they always had public officials stopping by the home to visit. The officials would always mention that the machine was supposedly illegal as it stood tall against the living room wall.

The third and last Trinidad prize I was able to dig up was a 2-Bit Musical Victor which Cleo had sold for \$500 to a friend in Raton. This was an especially high price at the time, as Cleo thought it was one of the best-preserved in the group. I purchased this machine in the spring of 2009 in Red River, New Mexico. The owner had passed away and left the machine to his son.

It is always great to know a little history when you find a machine but it doesn't always happen that way. The photos accompanying this article show some of the other machines that were sold off. I am sure they are in great collections today. You might also enjoy the photos of the Grand Hotel in Trinidad with Johnny's machines lined up and waiting for their next victim.

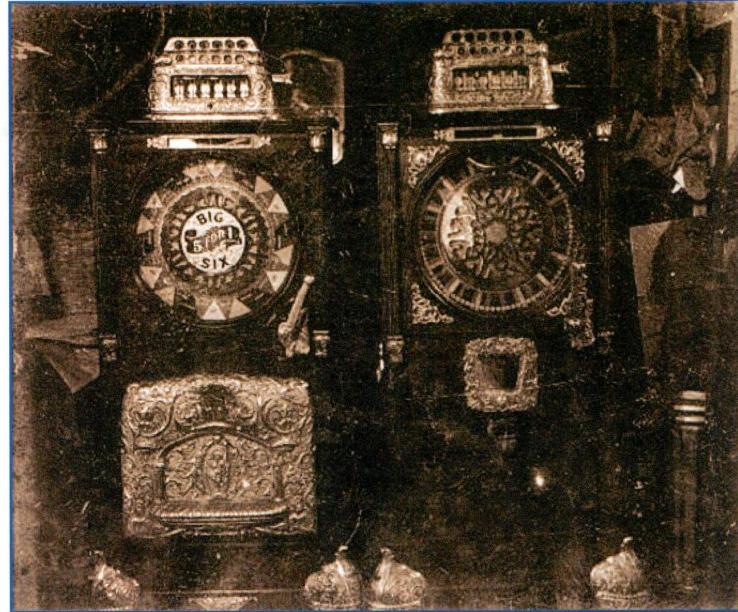
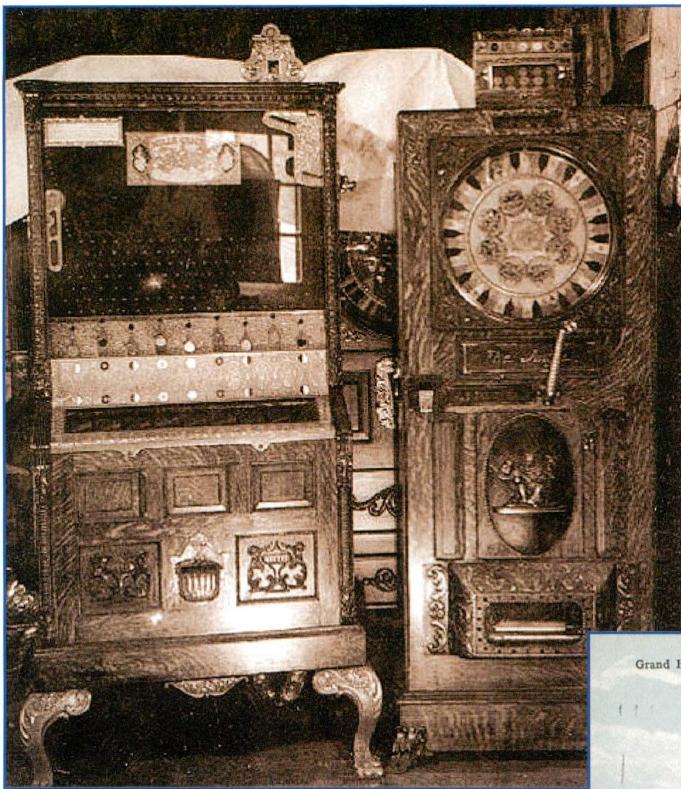
The list of floor machines from the hoard in which are known are the Caille Bullfrog, 2-Bit Musical Victor, Mills Cricket, Mills Musical Judge, Mills Jackpot Dewey, Watling Dewey, Watling Jackpot, Watling Big Six, and Watling Cupid. Now, I'll have to track down the remaining machines.

Or, perhaps you will find one.



Grand Hotel, Trinidad, Colo.





The Strange Twisted Story of Chester Pollard and Tom McDonald

by Bill Howard

Collectors have a choice between three varieties of Chester Pollard Football, the most successful of its floor model arcade machines. First there is the traditional type offered initially by the English firm, featuring long legs, a huge playfield to be viewed strictly from the front, and a large marquis mounted at the top. This soccer game was extremely popular with the public and operators until space became increasingly important to the arcade industry. As "heavy"

and "huge" became less desirable to operators, Chester Pollard began to offer a smaller, streamlined version. The legs were cut down, the playfield was shortened and equipped with a glass top to invite the player to view the action from above as well as from the front, and the marquis was eliminated. I was introduced to this modified authentic Chester Pollard Football when my father took me to Gene's Fun House to play the arcades after one of his office meetings in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, a memory I will always cherish. Though not as plentiful or valuable as the traditional model, it is still a Chester Pollard, in high demand, and commanding a good price.

Not so demanding or valuable is the third version of the Chester Pollard, which is not really considered by collectors as a Chester Pollard at all. As opposed to the "sawed down" Pollard described above, it is a Mike Munves revamp through and through. Although utilizing many Pollard interior parts, Munves made his own cabinet and, most importantly, employed his own coin

chute. The importance is that this cheaper, lighter American coin chute is what advanced collectors look for in distinguishing this from the genuine Chester Pollard. And this is why a Chester Pollard coin mech, which is unmistakable, commands a price today of more than \$500. No offense Mike, but I would strongly urge collectors to stay away from the Munves' revamp and go for the traditional or sawed-off Pollards.



I have the sawed-off variety of Chester Pollard Football that was featured at the arcade in Hershey Park, Pennsylvania for years, and it appears on page 141 of my book, Every Picture Tells a Story, 2006. How I acquired it is a story that does not protect the innocent, is as unbel-

lievable as it is true, and involves some of the strangest friends and acquaintances I have ever had the privilege of knowing. It is also a testament to the fun, the ups and downs, and the memories this hobby has afforded me over the years. So here goes.

This story starts with Tom McDonald, who I have not heard from since his involvement in this strange sequence of events. Now Tom was a self described ex-CIA operative, and was relied on heavily by President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He could also pick locks and often appeared as a coin-op dealer. I confess I had my doubts about Tom, until I found myself without a room at one of the old Valley Forge Coin-op shows. "No problem" said Tom, who invited me to stay

with him at the VIP suite at the Hotel Sheridan there. Wherever he went, all he had to do was call the CIA and things were set up for him. There I was with him in the VIP suite. Another pastime of Tom's involved playing jokes on dealer and friend Dick Delong. Some of these jokes almost drove poor Dick nuts.

Tom was also a notorious diabetic. On one occasion when Dick DeLong took a bunch of us to an all you can eat buffet during a Chicagoland Show, I caught Tom trying to sneak off with a Plateful of chocolate covered strawberries. After I wrestled the plate from him, he begrudgingly admitted that it probably would not have been a good idea to eat the whole plateful.

Over the years Tom and I became close. On occasion he mentioned that he had the Chester Pollard Football once used in Hershey Park. My ears lit up, and I asked him to keep me in mind if he ever decided to part with it.

The next part of this story shifts to the auction held in Mahopic, New York, some years ago. Mahopic is about 30 miles from New York City. My partner, "BP" Peirce called to persuade me to attend the preview with him the week before the auction. We needed merchandise and old BP was always looking for bargains, so I agreed to meet him Tuesday morning at Times Square in New York City so we could go preview the auction and maybe put in some absentee bids before proceeding on to the Atlantic City Antique Show that weekend. The hitch was that I had to find a way to New York City and back to Akron by myself. My father discovered a non-stop Greyhound bus route and I was on my way. Now Dad had introduced me to many good ideas in his time, but this was not one of them. Between the loud transistor radios, horny sailors, and a fight I had to break up just to get peace and quiet, I got little rest and arrived at Times Square in a foul mood. Perhaps I should have known what the auction had in store when we arrived at the farm in Mahopic where the auction was to take place and was greeted with daylong rain and some very foul ducks, one of which proceeded to defecate on my shoes. Nonetheless, BP tried to keep my spirits up, and off we went to look for suitable bargains for absentee bids. Along the way we came upon a traditional Chester Pollard Football that needed a little work, but was in fairly good shape. We thought we might be able to

"steal it" and BP suggested an absentee bid of \$2000. BP was never known as being one of the last of the big spenders. The card on the Football Arcade was clearly numbered 588, a number that would come to live in infamy in the annals of my mind.

There was joy in Mudville when I returned home from Atlantic City that weekend and called the auction house to find that we indeed had "stolen" the Chester Pollard, and for only \$800. Incredulously, I confirmed that the absentee bid was number 588 and thanked the gentleman for his honesty.

I then conveyed the news of my good fortune to all my collector buddies in Cleveland. Word spread like wildfire. The Godfather called expressing doubts, and proceeded to bet me that there was no such thing as a decent Chester Pollard for \$800. When I accepted his bet and said I was going to Mahopic to pick up this treasure the next weekend, he asked if he could drop off a music box for me to deliver for him in Mechanicsburg, PA which was on my way. Then friend, Ken Ruben called. Ever the one to want to protect the value of his collection, he expressed fear that the arcade market was falling through the basement and threatened bodily harm to anyone who would offer a Chester Pollard for that kind of money. When I gave him some free legal advice that this might constitute a felony, he quickly revised his threat to one of simply suing anyone who would dare do that.

I was undeterred and found a friend with a small truck with an overhead cab. When the Godfather arrived just hours before we took off to drop off the music box, he shook his head and informed me there was no way the Chester Pollard would fit in the small cab truck. He offered me his van and returned home in my hatchback. What I forgot was that the hatchback had no gas in it. Mike later described the whole ordeal as a "learning experience" he always attempts to avoid.

In any event, my friend and I were off to the auction warehouse in Mahopic. I had been told that my machine would be inside as the doors opened at 8:00 am. But when the doors opened after the all night drive, what did I find but a cheap 1950's formica constructed "foosball" game. After some very testy conversation, I found out that the auctioneer had decided to switch

the order of the items auctioned, and the corresponding numbers, but not notify the absentee bidders. I immediately called BP, told him to stop payment on our check, and returned home in disgrace.

To say I was the brunt of every joke my friends could think of for the next week would be an understatement. Then there was the Godfather bet. One Cleveland collector called offering a tip on where I could buy another foosball game for \$700. I finally took the coward's way out and stopped taking calls. Fortunately for me, my wife informed me when I came home the next evening that Tom McDonald was on the phone. "Just what I need" I thought, "another jokester friend." So I calmly waited for the joke that did not come. Tom informed me that he had heard of my misfortune and had decided to call me with both good news and bad news. The good news was that, because of his poor health and our friendship, he was giving me his Hershey Park Chester Pollard. The bad news was that he was moving to Florida and had to give up his warehouse near his New Jersey home by the end of the week, so that I had to show up that weekend to get my machine. I waited. No punch line.

As you can imagine, my friend Larry and I were on the road for Princeton, New Jersey the next weekend in his cab truck all set to pick up my sawed-off Chester Pollard. When we arrived to meet Tom, the good news was that old Chester barely fit into the truck. The bad news was that we couldn't lift it. "No problem," said Tom, who had us pile into his truck to get help he had arranged the night before. But there was a problem, because we found that the help was hung over. I'll never forget hearing Tom honk his horn and yell on that cold Saturday morning as he cajoled them out of an apart-

ment house with warm coffee and donuts. One of the group was Billy, a fellow about 5'5" that you would want with you if you were involved in a scrum for one of the baseballs Barry Bonds had just launched into the stands. With the help of this unforgettable band we were able to get the arcade out of the warehouse via piano leg rollers and hoist it onto the bed of the truck.

My ordeal was not over when I returned home. I knew I wasn't going to get Chester very far into the house, where there was little room, so I quickly dumped it on the kitchen floor with Larry's help in the only spot it would fit, a spot where it still sits today, complete with the piano leg rollers still underneath. Unfortunately my wife, daughter and granddaughter watched in horror as the action took place. I'll always remember how everyone, including me, left the house post haste to allow sufficient time for Cindy to cool off. In time, she did, no doubt in part by watching at family gatherings as my son and grandson played the arcade while my granddaughter waited to take on the winner. But she never has shared my enthusiasm about how well it fits in our kitchen.

So, there you have it, how I acquired my Hershey Park Chester Pollard for free thanks to all the craziness and to good friends. The fun of the hobby involves remembering all this when I look at old Chester. And, I must confess I think of my good friend Tom McDonald and occasionally wonder if it really was his warehouse we were at that Saturday morning. I quit wondering about the authenticity of the Hershey Park connection when I saw the writing stenciled onto the machine. Thank you Tom, wherever you are.

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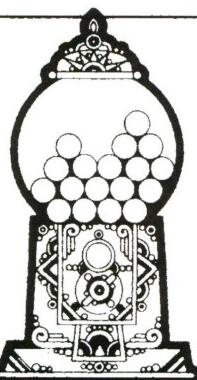
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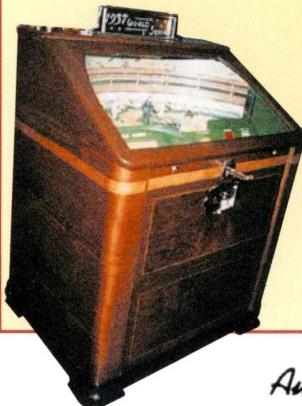
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